

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the meeting room Belbroughton on Monday 3rd October 2011

Present : Cllrs K Green (Chair), J Bradley, N Hartill, L Harvey, C Hine, A Ince, T Jones, J Kitson, S MacDonald, D Roberts, C Scurrrell, P Shotton and S Wright.

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. County Cllr Ed Moore, District Cllr Janice Boswell, and three residents also attended.

295/11 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hood.

296/11 Declarations of interest – None.

297/11 Minutes of the meeting on 5th September 2011

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

298/11 Reports

Planning

The Minutes of the meetings on 5th and 19th September were noted.

Finance

The Minutes of the meeting on 19th September were noted.

Clerk's report

- i. The Chairman, Cllr Harvey and the Clerk had attended a recent meeting of the Hagley Parish Council working group which had been formed to challenge the District's core strategy proposals for additional housing in Hagley. Belbroughton PC had been asked to support and participate in the group. A discussion on this would be scheduled for the November Council meeting.
- ii. The hard standing for the bus shelter in Hartle Lane had been installed by the County Council. The Clerk would liaise with Belbroughton wood yard to have the shelter installed.
- iii. The Council had been notified about the review of parliamentary constituencies in England. Further information about the proposals was on the District Council's website.

299/11 Finance and Investment Strategy

Cllr Kitson explained that the Finance Committee had approved a final draft of the strategy which incorporated points agreed when the draft had been discussed by the full Council in July. The strategy was now presented to the Council for formal approval. The Council agreed to adopt the strategy.

300/11 Splitting the Council

The Clerk reported on advice from NALC which suggested that the reorganisation order made by the District Council to establish new arrangements could set out how the current Council's assets would be handled. If the order was silent on this then the default position was that assets like land would go to the Council in whose area they were situated. The Clerk was seeking some further clarification from NALC, but she suggested that the Council should now consider retaining its own legal advisor to support it during the next stages of the process.

Advice from the District Council had suggested that it would be relatively straightforward to change the current Council's name to Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council. It was agreed in principle that this should be done, but the timing would depend on the practicalities

and other priorities. The Clerk was asked to explore the practicalities and any costs associated with this change.

301/11 Parish Council meeting room

It was agreed that a small task group should be set up to consider the various issues that needed to be addressed following the Council's decision not to improve the meeting room. Councillors Green, Bradley, Harvey, Hartill, Ince and Scurrrell agreed to serve on this group. A key issue was a timetable for the Council to start to meet elsewhere. The need to inform residents and for a regular pattern of meetings was noted. A possible target date of January 2012 for the Council to start to meet elsewhere was suggested for the task group's consideration.

302/11 Priorities and work programme

The Council considered an update on its priorities and work programme for the remainder of the current financial year. It was agreed that the Planning and Finance Committees should consider the matters delegated to them and whether they could take on more to free up time in full Council meetings. Any recommendations to be brought back for consideration by the Council. It was agreed that Quality Parish Status should be discussed at the December Council meeting.

303/11 Fairfield Villa football club

The football club had not yet commented on the final draft of the lease. The Council agreed that if the current draft was accepted by the Club, the lease could be signed. Councillor Green plus one other Councillor, but preferably Cllr Kitson if available, were authorised to sign the lease on behalf of the Council.

304/11 Grit Bins

Cllr Roberts and Cllr Hine outlined proposals for the purchase of additional grit bins in Belbroughton and Fairfield respectively. It was agreed that the Council would put forward 10 locations for consideration by the County Council - 7 in Belbroughton and 3 in Fairfield. It was agreed that the bins should be purchased out of the projects budget, but that refilling the bins should be a revenue cost. It was agreed that storage of grit to refill the bins during the winter- if necessary – would be considered separately.

305/11 Fairfield Parking

Letters had been received from the village hall committee and head of Fairfield school asking the Council to consider options for improving parking in Fairfield, including extending parking at the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that Fairfield Councillors would consider this further and undertake a site visit to reach an agreed view to recommend to the Council.

306/11 Dog fouling

This item was not reached. The Clerk said that she would circulate some information and agenda a future discussion if necessary.

307/11 Christmas tree and lights

Cllr Scurrrell's proposal that the Council should purchase a tree and lights for Fairfield was delegated to the Finance Committee for a decision.

308/11 Councillors items

- Cllr MacDonald reminded the Council that it was the Belbroughton Recreation Ground AGM on 13th October; he also reported that the Blue Ginger restaurant had closed
- Cllr Roberts said that he was pursuing the plan to install plants at the entrance to the village in Hartle Lane; he hoped to have proposals for the November Council meeting.
- Cllr Scurrrell said that the PACT meeting on 22 September in Fairfield had been well attended. The main concern raised by residents was the raising of the speed limit on sections of the A491.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....Chairman